

Carbondale Coal Company, Thomas Gillespie, Treasurer

In 1856, the Carbondale Coal Company purchased 400 acres of coal lands immediately south of Carbondale and, it was announced in the *Carbondale Transcript & Lackawanna Journal* of February 8, 1856, p. 2, were making preparations to mine 100,000 tons of coal per year. These coal lands, located nearly opposite the residence of Samuel R. Meredith, were formerly the Morgan and the Depew farms. This was the first private enterprise of its kind, said the Carbondale papers, with an impressive group of community leaders as officers and directors: Orrin Whitmore, President; **Thomas Gillespie, Treasurer**; Lewis Jones, Secretary; Managers, D. N. Lathrop, H. S. Pierce, Orrin Whitmore, John S. Law, and Charles B. Campbell). Here is the announcement from the February 8, 1856 issue of the *Carbondale Transcript & Lackawanna Journal*:

"Carbondale Coal Company. / This Company recently formed under the general mining law, has purchased some 400 acres of Coal lands immediately below this city—all in one body,—and will we understand sink a shaft immediately and prepare for a business of 100,000 tons per year. The lands belonging to the Company are known as the north half of the tract in the warrantee name of 'James Rider,' the farms known as the 'Morgan' and 'Depew' Farms. The works of the Company will be nearly opposite the residence of Sam'l R. Meredith, Esq., and we are assured will be prosecuted with all vigor. The coal will be sent east from here, whether by the Delaware & Hudson railroad, or by the new Lackawanna & Lanesboro road—the charter for which has just been obtained, we are unable to say. We hail this, the first private enterprise of this kind in our vicinity, with a hearty welcome, as an earnest of others soon to follow. / The officers are Orrin Whitmore, President; **Thomas Gillespie, Treasurer**; Lewis Jones, Secretary. Managers, D. N. Lathrop, H. S. Pierce, Orrin Whitmore, John S. Law, and Charles B. Campbell. Incidentally, we hear of other enterprises, not yet fully matured, to be commenced below this in the valley."(*Carbondale Transcript & Lackawanna Journal*, February 8, 1856, p. 2)

In the *Carbondale Transcript & Lackawanna Journal*, published a week later, it was announced that the Carbondale Coal Company had struck a vein of superior coal (bright and free from slate) 9 feet 2 inches in thickness, at a distance of 40 feet below the surface. The company will continue boring into the lower strata, as it is known that there are two other veins pervading the basin. The works of the Company are located on the former Depew farm, a short distance east of the president of the President, Orrin Whitmore, Esq. Here is the announcement that was published in the April 18, 1856 issue of the *Carbondale Transcript & Lackawanna Journal*:

"We mentioned last week that the Carbondale Coal Company had commenced boring for coal on their lands below town. We now have the gratification to announce that they have met with complete success,—having struck a vein of 9 feet 2 inches in thickness, at a distance of about 40 feet below the surface. The coal is of a superior quality, bright, and free from slate. The borings will be continued till they penetrate the lower strata, as there are two other veins pervading the basin. The Works of the Company will be on the Depew Farm, a short distance east of the residence of the President, Orrin Whitmore, Esq." (*Carbondale Transcript & Lackawanna Journal*, April 18, 1856, p. 2)